

Appl. No. 10/708,538
Amdt. dated April 27, 2005
Reply to Office action of February 11, 2005

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Harshberger et al. (US 5,311,397).

- 5 Claim 4 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Harshberger et al. (US 5,311,397)

1. Rejection of claims 1-3 under U.S.C. 102(b):

- 10 Claims 1-3 are rejected under U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Harshberger et al. (US 5,311,397) for reasons of record as cited on page 3 of the aboveindicted Office action.

Response:

- 15 Claims 1-3 have been amended to overcome this rejection. Claim 1 now contains the limitations previously found in claim 2 and claim 3, and claims 2 and 3 have been subsequently canceled. Harshberger et al. (hereinafter Harshberger) does not teach a shell for accommodating an adapter, and also does not teach a dust-preventive member covering the shell. Instead, Harshberger teaches that member 22 slides into the shell 30, 32, 34, thereby leaving outer portions of the shell 30, 32, 34 exposed. Harshberger also
20 does not teach that the shell is covered by a dust-preventive member. For these reasons, the amended claim 1 is patentably distinct from Harshberger, and reconsideration of claim 1 is respectfully requested.

2. Rejection of claim 4 under U.S.C. 103(a):

- 25 Claim 4 is rejected under U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Harshberger, et al. (US 5,311,391) for reasons of record as cited on page 3 of the aboveindicted Office action.

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Response:

Claim 4 is dependent on the amended claim 1, and should be allowed if claim 1 is allowed. Reconsideration of claim 4 is respectfully requested.

5 3. Introduction to new claims 5-7:

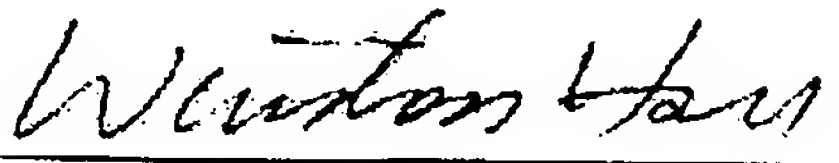
New claim 5 contains the limitation of a cavity existing in the housing for containing the assembly of the adapter, the shell and the circuit board. New claim 6 contains the limitation of how the dust-preventive member is installed onto the housing. Lastly, new claim 7 contains the limitation that the assembly of the adapter, the shell and the circuit board are assembled in a linear manner.

On the other hand, Harshberger does not teach or suggest the use of a dust-preventive member. Harshberger also does not teach installing a dust-preventive member to cover the shell and fixed on the housing and that a cavity exists in the housing. Lastly, Harshberger teaches that the assembly is assembled in a L-shaped manner, not a linear manner. That is, the member 22 is inserted into the shell 30, 32, 34 in an x-y plane, and then the shell 30, 32, 34 is lowered onto the peripheral bay module 24. On the other hand, the external card 36, the dust-preventive member 42, and the shell 60 of the present invention are assembled in a linear manner as illustrated in Figures 3 and 4. For these reasons, new claims 5-7 are patentable over Harshberger. In addition, new claims 5-7 are dependent on claim 1, and should be allowed if claim 1 is allowed. Acceptance of new claims 5-7 is respectfully requested.

Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

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Respectfully submitted,



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